



3618

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 3269.01US02

Edward H. Dougherty

Confirmation No.: 3852

Application No.: 10/648,834

Filed: August 26, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3618

For: SHIELD FOR TRAILER COUPLER

---

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This information is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

This application was filed after June 30, 2003; therefore, copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are not included.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bradley J. Thorson  
Registration No. 52,288

Customer No. 24113  
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 349-5657

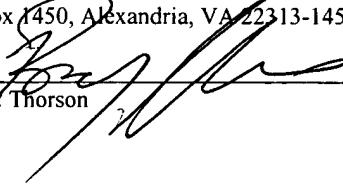
*Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.*

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

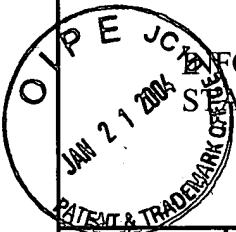
I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

1/15/2004

Bradley V. Thorson



## Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/648,834
Filing Date	August 26, 2003
First Named Inventor	Edward H. Dougherty
Art Unit	3618
Examiner Name	

Sheet

1

of

1

Attorney Docket Number

3269.01US02

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US-6,412,806 B1	07/02/2002	Doyle F. Peacock
		US-6,332,853 B1	12/25/2001	Melinda K. Bowman
		US-6,325,121 B1	12/04/2001	Shea D. Hudnall
		US-6,113,142	09/05/2000	Anthony Tolbert
		US-6,039,339	03/21/2000	Louis Bello
		US-6,022,038	02/08/2000	Boyce A. Maxwell et al.
		US-5,048,217	09/17/1991	Michael D. Easter
		US-4,858,361	08/22/1989	Grover W. White
		US-3,557,298	01/19/1971	John T. Thompson et al.
		US-3,491,847	01/27/1970	Thomas P. Abbott
	US-			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		DE 3635730 A1	06/23/1988	Sandvoss	
		GB 2 255 538 A	11/11/1992	Graham Stokes et al.	

EXAMINER  
SIGNATUREDATE  
CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.